



DIGEST OF CURRENT ECONOMIC STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1981

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The Digest contains the latest available figures at the time of issue for a selection of monthly and quarterly series. Where possible, series are shown both in their original and seasonally adjusted form.

Seasonal adjustment

2. Measures of variability and details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting Bureau statistics are given in Appendixes C and B, respectively, of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0). This annual publication also contains historical original and seasonally adjusted data in tabular and graphical form of a selection of the statistics appearing in the Bureau's monthly and quarterly publications.

3. As well as being adjusted for normal seasonal factors, some of the statistical series included in the Digest have been adjusted for the effects of calendar variations, namely, 'trading-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in a month) and the influence of movable holidays, such as Easter and Australia Day.

4. Most of the original and seasonally adjusted series are preliminary and subject to revision.

Related publications

5. More detailed information is available in the *Monthly Summary of Statistics, Australia* (1304.0) (\$2.35). Publications from which the series in the Digest are derived are listed on page 8.

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
- break in continuity of series (where drawn between two consecutive figures in the same column)

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

A. R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

PRODUCTION

Month	Black coal '000 tonnes		Iron ore (a) '000 tonnes	Lead (b) '000 tonnes	Electricity mil. k W h		Gas (c) mil. megajoules		Raw steel '000 tonnes		Cement '000 tonnes		Motor vehicles (d) '000		Electric motors under 720 W '000	
	Original	Seas. adj.			Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1979-80-																
January	5,854	7,633		21.9	7,366	8,076	21,433	26,602	763	709	309	452	11.1	32.1	115	258
February	5,647	5,212	21,579	33.2	7,414	8,044	22,369	26,154	658	669	474	457	34.6	33.9	272	287
March	7,202	7,065		35.6	7,824	8,098	24,503	27,357	628	613	449	441	33.6	31.9	283	273
April	5,311	6,062		36.4	7,524	8,079	25,905	27,587	529	564	448	451	26.8	29.0	248	278
May	8,209	5,480	24,188	36.6	8,279	7,898	30,605	29,235	488	466	481	451	35.7	30.6	267	293
June	8,174	7,871		35.2	8,707	8,029	34,984	29,883	576	602	457	455	29.8	29.5	284	288
1980-81-																
July	6,637	6,491		31.7	9,486	8,185	37,060	29,478	736	744	475	441	35.5	32.1	r330	r298
August	5,004	5,464	25,707	32.5	8,973	8,048	34,502	28,767	685	698	483	466	29.6	29.1	r321	r297
September	8,612	7,707		32.1	8,231	8,048	31,793	29,371	614	602	428	412	33.0	28.7	r351	r293
October	10,127	8,360		30.9	8,206	8,153	29,275	28,705	629	601	465	443	35.1	29.0	r393	r327
November	8,818	8,136	24,060	33.1	7,927	8,540	27,939	30,718	635	688	489	465	32.0	29.4	r346	r294
December	6,449	8,077		31.0	r7,999	r8,585	r25,248	r29,197	653	626	429	451	r28.4	r32.0	r316	r304
January	n.s.a.	n.s.a.		n.s.a.	7,834	8,610	27,897	35,036	728	671	312	451	12.8	39.0	117	285
February	n.s.a.	n.s.a.		n.s.a.	7,437	8,384	27,663	33,918	634	675	410	413	32.2	32.3	282	303

(a) Gross mine output

(b) Metallic contents of mine products

(c) Available for issue through mains, includes natural gas

(d) Includes vehicles which are disposed of by the manufacturer in a partly finished state

PRODUCTION—continued

Month	Cotton woven cloth (excl. towelling) '000 sq m		Woolen and worsted woven cloth (excl. blanketing) '000 sq m		Man-made fibre-cloth '000 sq m	Meat '000 tonnes		Price index manufacturing division(b)	Whole-milk intake by factories (c) mil. litres		Brokers and dealers' receipts of taxable wool		Book value at end of quarter \$m	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.		Original	Seas. adj.		Original	Seas. adj.	Total receipts tonnes	% of total received by brokers (d)	Original	Seas. adj.
1979-80-														
January	1,630	3,899	435	795	5,907	184	197	276.3	525	434	(e)21,814	(e)68.7	25,326	25,337
February	3,476	3,252	908	784	11,691	178	182	283.1	416	437	37,424	72.0		
March	3,207	3,385	900	825	12,216	168	156	285.4	336	428	37,910	69.6		
April	2,900	3,421	775	779	10,629	205	221	286.0	237	376	38,372	73.7		
May	3,509	3,120	673	732	13,158	201	194	287.2	210	419	30,388	73.6	26,089	26,071
June	3,543	3,230	513	610	13,311	167	171	289.2	220	455	23,544	68.8	(g)26,315	(g)26,297
1980-81-														
July	4,590	4,133	839	757	14,278	208	209	292.6	299	454	41,010	74.9		
August	3,769	3,154	683	703	r13,026	197	195	296.5	449	468	72,055	(f)80.7	27,639	27,543
September	3,715	3,364	771	734	13,057	214	205	299.3	585	446	102,447	82.4		
October	r4,338	r3,520	1,032	848	r13,724	233	214	300.4	684	430	103,574	80.7		
November	r3,509	r3,325	997	874	12,047	187	175	r302.0	661	437	79,198	79.0	27,929	28,032
December	r2,966	r2,569	r775	r700	r9,719	r182	r195	r304.2	609	420	r52,379	r76.4		
January	1,447	3,160	1,045	1,045	4,333	168	179	305.9	493	412	57,236	81.3		
February	2,385	2,567	957	862	11,463	172	175	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.		

(a) Owned by private enterprises in Australia. See publication 5629.0.

(b) This index is on a 'net division' basis and relates in concept only to articles which are produced in the Manufacturing Division of ASIC (Division C) for sale or transfer outside the Division or for use as capital equipment. (c) Source: Australian Dairies Corporation. (d) Members of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia. (e) Affected by major industrial dispute. (f) The

National Council of Wool Selling Brokers has increased its membership from August 1980 resulting in an increase in the percentage of the total wool received by Brokers. (g) Comparability differences due to sample revision. See September Quarter issue of 5629.0 for further details of this revision.

OVERSEAS TRANSACTIONS

Month	Value of total exports \$m	Value of total imports \$m	Value of merchandise at average 1974-75 prices(a) \$m		Export price index (b) All groups 1974-75 = 100	Balance on current accounts \$m	Net apparent capital inflow \$m	Official reserve assets (c) \$m
			Exports	Imports				
			Seas. adj.	Seas. adj.				
1979-80—								
January	1,736	1,630			179	328	542	6,386
February	1,619	1,444	3,027	2,276	183	100	263	6,495
March	1,613	1,332			185	30	55	5,627
April	1,617	1,277			183	r 82		5,225
May	1,537	1,473	2,804	2,071	182	r 352	r616	5,271
June	1,803	1,394			179	r 74	r92	5,681
1980-81—								
July	1,681	1,592			180	r 278	r216	5,933
August	1,489	1,463	r2,563	2,267	182	r 403	r190	5,533
September	1,403	1,617			184	r 537	r349	5,718
October	r1,671	1,736			185	603	1,056	6,094
November	r1,599	1,325	2,550	2,269	185	200	r326	5,981
December	r1,589	1,540			185	r 228	113	5,430
January	r1,670	1,406			186	r 236	r530	5,586
February	1,577	1,613			n.y.a.	446	401	5,172

(a) Replaces estimates at average 1966-67 prices. See publication 5421.0

(b) Introduced in July 1979. For further details see July 1979 issue of publication 6405.0

(c) Gold is valued at the average London gold price for the month converted to \$A at the market rate of exchange applying on the last day of the month

INTERNAL TRADE

Month	Retail sales(a)										New motor cars and station wagons registered '000				Other new motor vehicles registered(d) '000		Installment credit for retail sales, finance companies and other businesses, balances outstanding(e) \$m	
	All items except motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc.(b) \$m		Food and drink(h) \$m		Clothing, hardware, electrical and furniture(h) \$m		Other(h)(c) \$m											
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.		
1979-80—																		
January	2,324	2,489							33.2	37.9	8.3	10.0			3,043			
February	2,268	2,440	3,595	3,663	2,142	2,476	1,226	1,312	36.3	38.1	9.7	10.2			3,039			
March	2,370	2,514							37.0	37.0	10.0	10.1			3,032			
April	2,399	2,495							36.3	35.7	9.3	9.6			3,020			
May	2,666	2,527	3,668	3,743	2,541	2,516	1,255	1,342	37.7	35.2	10.8	10.0			3,018			
June	2,399	2,572							36.5	36.9	11.1	10.0			3,011			
1980-81—																		
July	2,552	2,645							43.2	37.7	11.9	10.1			3,007			
August	2,552	2,637	3,792	3,898	2,539	2,626	1,312	1,381	39.3	38.2	10.0	10.4			3,005			
September	2,591	2,693							37.5	37.9	10.0	10.4			3,001			
October	2,760	2,677							40.2	38.4	10.7	10.1			3,017			
November	2,771	2,752	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	36.4	38.3	9.6	10.2			3,028			
December	3,792	2,822							39.9	40.8	10.0	10.1			3,027			
January	2,639	2,791							31.8	38.1	9.3	r11.6			3,073			
February	2,480	2,808							35.8	38.9	10.8	11.7			n.y.a.			

(a) Based on the 1973-74 census of retail establishments—vehicles, trucks, other truck type vehicles and buses

(b) Excludes Northern Territories and Australian Capital Territory

(c) Other: excludes motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc.

(d) During the period, amounts financed to new agreements made were: November \$149m, December \$157m, January \$136m

(e) Comprises light commercial type

WAGES, OVERTIME AND RETAIL PRICES

Month	Average weekly earnings per employed male unit \$		Weekly wage rates index, adult males (b) 1954 = 100	Average weekly overtime hours per employee (c)	Consumer price index, six State capitals: 1966-67 = 100.0 unless otherwise noted (a)									
	Original	Seasonally adjusted			All groups	Food (d)	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transportation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care (e)	Recreation (f)	
1979-80:-														
January			625.5	1.2		286.9								
February	245.70	250.90	626.0	1.4	290.3	288.2	295.2	316.8	247.0	296.5	302.8	340.6	133.8	
March			627.4	1.4		291.4								
April			628.3	1.4		293.4								
May	258.20	258.90	629.2	1.4	298.4	296.2	303.7	324.5	253.4	310.3	307.9	348.8	136.2	
June			629.3	1.3		298.9								
1980-81:-														
July			656.7	1.4		300.3								
August	268.90	268.70	657.1	1.4	304.0	302.5	307.2	333.1	262.2	311.3	314.3	354.7	118.5	
September			659.1	1.4		304.4								
October			660.9	1.4		307.4								
November	289.10	277.70	661.1	1.5	310.3	310.5	314.1	341.7	267.8	317.1	317.2	358.9	140.6	
December			661.3	1.6		314.4								
January			684.8	1.2		317.8								
February			n.s.a.	1.4		316.2								

(a) The composition of the group structure of the Index has been altered with the introduction, from December quarter 1976, of the ninth Consumer Price Index series (b) Weighted average. Excludes rural (c) Results of sample surveys of government employers and private payroll taxpayers conducted by the ABS as at the third Friday of the month shown. For further notes relating to these estimates see 633.0 (d) Quarterly series may be derived by averaging the three monthly figures. However, in some cases quarterly index numbers so derived differ slightly from the quarterly figure as published in Consumer Price Index publications due to rounding. (e) Base December quarter 1968 = 100.0 (f) Base September quarter 1976 = 100.0

BUILDING AND NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Month	Building approvals \$m		Building approvals dwellings '000 units		Government building approval \$m	Building commenced total \$m		Dwellings commenced '000 units		Price indexes		New fixed capital expenditure by private enterprises (\$m)			
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.		Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Materials used in house building(a)	Materials used in building other than house building(b)	New building and structures		Other new capital equipment	
												Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1979-80:-															
January	568.5	690.7	10.1	12.8	116.5					301.6	100.5				
February	656.8	712.3	11.3	12.4	146.4	2,215.4	2,286.2	34.7	34.9	308.9	102.8	536.8	655.7	1,551.5	1,776.1
March	701.0	702.8	13.3	12.7	89.4					314.4	103.9				
April	659.0	677.8	12.7	12.8	73.9					317.2	104.4				
May	730.4	664.0	13.3	12.4	119.9	2,129.1	2,039.7	34.1	33.0	320.0	104.8	697.3	674.0	2,001.1	1,807.1
June	771.1	692.5	13.1	12.2	101.3					325.2	106.6				
1980-81:-															
July	760.9	711.1	13.2	12.3	72.6					329.9	108.1				
August	767.4	830.6	12.8	13.6	101.9	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	36.6	35.0	334.4	109.7	755.0	756.6	2,125.9	2,201.7
September	767.3	717.0	13.0	12.4	123.0					337.2	110.5				
October	821.7	766.0	14.1	13.2	73.6					338.5	111.0				
November	770.8	767.7	13.1	12.9	107.2	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	339.6	111.4	1,067.0	924.0	2,338.4	2,218.2
December	763.7	797.4	12.5	12.7	112.3					340.6	111.8				
January	625.2	796.5	10.4	14.1	95.8					343.0	112.9				
February	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.	n.s.a.					348.1	114.2				

(a) Weighted average six State capital cities 1966-67 = 100.0 (b) The previous index, calculated on reference base 1966-67 = 100.0, has been replaced by a revised index calculated on reference base 1979-80 = 100.0. For further details of this revision, see February 1981 issue of 6407.0

FINANCE

Month	Savings banks depositors' balances (c)		Major trading banks (b)				Finance companies balances outstanding (d)	Housing finance for owner occupation value of loans approved (a)			Commonwealth bond yield short dated (f) per cent	Listed companies new monies raised \$m	Taxation revenue Commonwealth and State consolidated revenue funds \$m	
	\$m		Deposits \$m		Advances \$m			Permanent building societies \$m	Other lenders (e) \$m	Original			Seas adj	
	Original	Seas adj	Original	Seas adj	Original	Seas adj								
								\$m	\$m	\$m				
1979-80 —														
January	20,774	20,709	22,999	22,235	16,565	16,695	18,458	342	182	94	10.38		2,632	2,818
February	20,964	20,843	23,252	22,303	16,574	16,962	18,527	328	226	105	10.75	529.3	2,721	2,651
March	20,849	20,985	23,399	22,408	16,836	17,136	18,682	330	240	106	11.20		2,719	2,832
April	20,845	21,175	23,087	22,326	17,280	17,271	18,802	345	214	98	11.40		3,967	2,737
May	20,846	21,130	22,436	22,950	17,613	17,516	19,000	334	244	111	11.54	664.5	3,711	2,667
June	21,261	21,270	22,680	23,519	17,514	17,620	19,259	295	209	104	11.50		2,800	2,711
1980-81 —														
July	21,351	21,344	23,010	23,966	17,864	17,833	19,604	332	252	108	11.34		2,271	2,841
August	21,592	21,518	23,278	24,205	17,901	17,938	19,889	305	232	109	11.50	1,008.2	2,850	2,865
September	21,771	21,663	23,630	24,264	17,811	17,775	20,175	302	262	106	11.50		2,154	2,941
October	22,098	21,888	24,288	24,411	18,273	17,915	20,483	358	263	130	11.58		2,479	3,005
November	22,210	22,180	24,555	24,617	18,356	18,083	20,951	317	348	126	12.42	1,204.0	3,065	3,020
December	22,699	22,621	25,127	24,570	18,638	18,434	21,299	327	229	122	12.85		2,513	3,189
January	22,705	22,623	25,292	24,611	18,606	18,753	21,497	320	197	98	13.10		2,841	3,216
February	22,959	22,837	25,564	24,520	18,595	19,022	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	13.12		n.y.a.	n.y.a.

(a) Includes loans for alterations and additions. (b) Includes external territories. (c) Excludes external territories. (d) Amounts shown relate to all types of finance agreements and provide a broad overall measure of finance company activity. For further details see the monthly publication 5614.0. (e) Includes terminating building societies, finance companies, credit unions, insurance companies and government instrumentalities. (f) This series was previously based on rebate bonds which were issued prior to 1 November 1968. Income on these bonds was subject to income tax at current rates less a rebate of 10 cents in each dollar of Australian Government loan interest included in taxable income. The series is now based on non-rebate bonds.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (\$m)

Quarter	Gross domestic product		Gross farm product		Gross non-farm product		Final consumption expenditure				Gross fixed capital expenditure			
							Private		Government		Private		Public	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
AT CURRENT PRICES														
1978-79 —														
June	25,126	26,204	1,090	1,806	24,036	24,398	15,930	15,988	4,445	4,286	4,012	3,804	2,528	2,124
1979-80 —														
September	26,865	27,243	1,398	1,829	25,467	25,414	16,390	16,560	4,381	4,441	3,726	3,764	1,944	2,136
December	30,783	27,953	3,308	1,877	27,475	26,076	17,888	16,955	4,725	4,550	4,081	3,873	2,303	2,223
March	27,860	28,999	1,592	1,717	26,268	27,262	16,984	17,724	4,523	4,824	3,688	4,092	2,040	2,362
June	28,308	29,799	945	1,803	27,363	27,996	17,961	18,039	5,106	4,921	4,491	4,264	2,651	2,227
1980-81 —														
September	30,609	30,738	1,545	1,831	29,064	28,907	18,563	18,693	5,032	5,101	4,618	4,669	2,209	2,421

AT AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES

1978-79 —														
June	15,897	17,036	460	1,258	15,437	15,778	10,027	10,057	2,973	2,862	2,510	2,382	1,626	1,374
1979-80 —														
September	16,937	17,223	734	1,140	16,203	16,083	10,051	10,156	2,839	2,881	2,285	2,303	1,214	1,332
December	19,557	17,425	2,369	1,143	17,188	16,282	10,790	10,223	3,015	2,920	2,448	2,333	1,401	1,352
March	16,685	17,414	1,007	1,103	15,678	16,311	9,937	10,371	2,802	2,970	2,138	2,363	1,185	1,364
June	16,417	17,583	417	1,129	16,000	16,454	10,293	10,332	3,112	2,995	2,536	2,411	1,508	1,274
1980-81 —														
September	17,567	17,686	724	1,042	16,843	16,644	10,422	10,495	2,967	3,011	2,534	2,557	1,215	1,329

AT CURRENT PRICES — continued

Quarter	Imports of goods and services		Exports of goods and services		Gross operating surplus of trading enterprises				Wages, salaries and supplements		Income of farm unincorporated enterprises	Other household income	Less direct taxes, etc. (a)	Household disposable income
					Companies		Other							
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.				
1978-79 — June	4,606	4,618	4,665	4,653	2,707	2,792	4,876	5,940	14,295	14,327	495	7,444	5,608	16,626
1979-80 — September	4,572	4,533	4,737	4,795	2,965	2,952	5,804	6,017	14,818	14,872	772	6,919	3,164	19,345
December	4,996	5,031	5,631	5,450	3,689	3,146	8,151	6,267	15,617	15,157	2,569	7,972	3,489	22,669
March	5,350	5,336	5,540	5,676	2,780	3,284	5,781	6,226	15,411	15,681	929	6,879	4,291	18,928
June	5,204	5,224	5,527	5,517	3,402	3,506	5,208	6,463	15,984	16,230	289	8,431	6,262	18,442
1980-81 — September	5,819	5,782	5,331	5,397	3,505	3,486	6,465	6,548	16,885	16,822	876	7,679	3,506	21,914

(a) Direct taxes deducted are those paid by persons to general government. These include income tax paid and estate and gift duties, all other direct taxes, fees for service of a regulatory character and fines and penalties. Also deducted here are consumer debt interest and transfers to overseas.

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) ('000)

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (b) ('000)

JOB
VACANCIES
(c'000)

Month	Males		Females		Persons		Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work	Total			Survey estimates (d)
	Original	Seas. adj. (c)	Original	Seas. adj. (c)	Original	Seas. adj. (c)	Males	Females		Males	Females	Persons	
1979-80—													
January	4,179.9	n.a.	2,337.0	n.a.	6,516.9	n.a.	226.9	154.1	56.9	242.3	195.5	437.8	
February	4,190.6	4,155.8	2,428.0	2,416.8	6,618.6	6,572.5	215.2	160.5	68.8	230.4	214.1	444.5	36.9
March	4,182.6	n.a.	2,473.0	n.a.	6,655.6	n.a.	196.3	142.8	73.3	211.5	200.9	412.4	
April	4,156.6	n.a.	2,440.0	n.a.	6,596.5	n.a.	192.9	146.3	65.3	206.9	197.5	404.5	
May	4,201.1	4,193.6	2,450.1	2,443.5	6,651.4	6,637.5	201.0	141.6	71.0	219.9	193.7	413.6	29.8
June	4,179.2	n.a.	2,459.6	n.a.	6,638.8	n.a.	193.1	144.7	68.3	208.9	197.1	406.1	
1980-81—													
July	4,189.5	n.a.	2,475.9	n.a.	6,665.4	n.a.	190.0	134.8	60.6	205.3	180.0	385.4	
August	4,180.0	4,200.3	2,459.0	2,468.1	6,639.0	6,668.0	193.3	139.4	59.7	209.1	183.2	392.3	30.1
September	4,221.1	n.a.	2,509.7	n.a.	6,730.8	n.a.	197.9	137.6	70.0	211.1	194.4	405.5	
October	4,195.6	n.a.	2,466.1	n.a.	6,661.7	n.a.	180.1	127.0	68.6	194.8	180.9	375.7	
November	4,189.6	4,211.4	2,476.0	2,478.4	6,665.5	6,693.5	171.4	131.1	54.3	182.8	174.1	357.0	34.3
December	4,306.7	n.a.	2,514.9	n.a.	6,821.5	n.a.	206.1	151.2	74.6	226.2	205.8	432.0	
January	4,251.6	n.a.	2,397.8	n.a.	6,649.4	n.a.	218.2	158.7	53.4	233.9	196.5	430.4	
February	4,271.4	4,236.8	2,473.4	2,461.9	6,744.8	6,696.6	203.1	154.7	65.0	219.6	203.2	422.8	33.0

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. The labour force is the sum of the employed and the unemployed.

(b) Labour force survey estimates. Suspension of seasonally adjusted unemployment estimates is explained in the November 1977 issue of 6203.0.

(c) Seasonally adjusted estimates available only for February, May, August and November.

(d) Results of sample surveys of government employers and private payroll taxpayers conducted by the ABS as at the third Friday of the month shown. For further notes relating to these estimates see 6231.0.

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